THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No comparison can be made between All India Radio and Doordarshan as both are entirely two different media, one being audio and the other visual. All India Radio is having its own market for advertisement earnings which has shown a steady increase during the last few years.

(b) and (c) It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to expand and improve All Inida Radio's coverage. During the VIII Plan, several stations were planned, which are presently under various stages of implementation. In the IX Plan, additional Radio Stations are proposed to be set up to cover more areas, subject ot the approval by the Government/Planning Commission and availability of adequate financial resources. Further, the power of several transmitters is also being increased to improve the coverage and with a view to earn more revenue.

[English]

Blacklisted Companies

2566. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2969 dated March 13, 1997 and state :

(a) whether the companies to whom show cause notices have been issued, have submitted their replies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by DOT against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Inquiry Officer has been appointed. All the Firms have submitted replies and the same are under examination.

Village Telephones

2567. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether DOT has fixed a target for providing telephones in villages during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and target achieved so far;

(c) whether the MARR equipment suppliers have expressed their inability to make deliveries of such equipments on schedule;

(d) if so, the names of the firms which have shown their inability; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to meet the target in view of the suppliers inability?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The achievement of VPTs for the period 1996-97 is 56719 as against the target of 75,000 VPTs.

(c) and (d) Some of the suppliers expressed difficulties in completing their supplies within the stipulated delivery schedule. The list of the firms is given in the attached Statement.

(e) (i) The delivery schedule of the suppliers was extended;

(ii) Suppliers were persuaded to expedite the supply;

(iii) Additional orders for MARR systems were placed to augment the supply position; and

(iv) Circles were asked to increase target on physical medium such as cables/overhead lines.

Statement

Sl. No.	Firm's name
1.	ARM Ltd. Hyderabad.
2.	Phoenix Telecommunications Ltd. Hyderabad
3.	Himachal Futuristic Commn. Ltd., N. Delhi.
4.	Phoenix Technology Corporation (P) Ltd., Bangalore.
5.	Sinclaire Electronic Industries Ltd., Hyderabad
6.	MIC Electronics (P) Ltd., Hyderabad
7.	HTL Ltd., Madras.
8.	Technicom System Ltd., Nasik.
9.	National Telecommunication India Ltd., Bombay.
10.	Gold Stone India Ltd., Hyderabad
11.	Shyam Telecom Ltd., New Delhi.
12.	ITI Ltd., Bangalore
13.	Intercity Cables Systems (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
14.	Binfo Electronic (P) Ltd., Bangalore
15.	ANCO Communication Ltd., Bangalore